

ER 60-6656/a

10 SEP 1960

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*cancel*  
Mr. Thomas C. Erb  
[Redacted]

Dear Mr. Erb:

I have received and have read with close attention your thoughtful letter of 25 August concerning the U-2 incident.

I would like to mention that Powers was over a hundred days in solitary confinement without access to family, friends, his own legal advisors, or any U.S. Embassy representative prior to the trial, that undoubtedly the Soviets had drummed into his mind what they wished to come out at the trial, and that this can be done and be effective even short of the techniques of "brain washing." I might add that in selecting the pilots for such missions, individuals whose past training and other technical, mental and ideological outlook seemed to qualify them for the job, were chosen on the basis of these qualifications and willingness to serve. Even though the trial itself is over, Powers is still a prisoner of the Soviet, and we should be careful in our comments that we do nothing to make his own situation more difficult.

Your kind comments about me and the work of the CIA are indeed appreciated.

Sincerely,

*W.D.*  
Allen W. Dulles  
Director

DPD-DD/P:JAC:mg (2 Sept. 60)  
Rewritten: O/DCI/[Redacted] bak(8 Sept. 60)

Distribution:

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EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE E

60-6656

STAT

[Redacted]  
August 25, 1960

Mr. Allen W. Dulles  
Counter Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Now that the highly overrated, over publicized, and misunderstood U-2 incident is fading from the public eye I want to congratulate you for a job well done in handling the whole affair.

There is one thing on which I would like to comment however - how in the world did you ever hire a man like Powers for such an important job? You need to drastically revise your recruiting program. I cannot blame a man for wanting to save his life but at least he should have blown up the plane to prevent secrets from falling into enemy hands. I don't believe you made the boy understand how important this struggle is between United States and Russia.

I was surprised and quite pleased to know that our government was conducting some aggressive espionage of its own. It makes me feel a little more secure. I believe the majority of the people feel the same way.

As far as Russia using the incident to wreck the summit conference it was just as well. No one but the newspaper writers, the so called intelligentsia, and some misguided leaders looking for reelection wanted it. I believe the public realizes more than is thought that the ultimate purpose of Russia is world domination and that any meeting with them will be of no value to us or the rest of the world. Generally they are to our disadvantage because we give more than we receive and then the Russians keep their agreement only as long as it is convenient to them to do so.

When the U-2 incident came to light you were to be commended for telling the truth about it. Even the most uneducated and primitive people can respect the truth. If you had lied about it the truth would not be recognized later - for instance the RB47. It is a shame that so many of our newspaper writers who wield such influence cannot endorse the truth.

Congratulations for your good work. Keep it up.

Sincerely yours,

*Thomas C. Ehrlich*  
Thomas C. Ehrlich

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ER 60-6656/a

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Mr. Thomas C. Erb

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Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

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DED-DD/P:JAC:mg (2 Sept. 60)  
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